Use of reclaimed land

3722. SHR SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land reclaimed by sand and soil filling and plantation after extraction of coal from the same during the last five years;

(b) the areas of such reclaimed land undertaken by MCL (Mahanadi Coalfields Limited), Sambalpur in Orissa;

(c) the amount spent by MCL for this purpose since its inception;

(d) the status of such land under MCL, Sambalpur at present;

(e) whether there is any scope for alternative use of these lands by the PSU in a cost effective manner; and

(f) if not, can these be handed over to any other organization or its original owner for better use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) 4173.89 Ha of land has been reclaimed in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last 5 years

(b) The Area of land reclaimed in Mahahadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during last 5 years is 231 ha.

(c) The amount spent by MCL for this purpose since its inception is approximately Rs.78 crores.

(d) The area of reclaimed land, since inception, in MCL is 1768 Ha, out of which, plantation has been done on 1045 ha of reclaimed land.

(e) Tree plantation over the reclaimed land is a continuous and on going process. This also helps in proper stabilization of land. There is a scope for growing fruit yielding trees or cash crops to make these sustainable and cost effective.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.